

**ADMISSION OF THE PRESS.**  
The Clerk asked if the reporters should be admitted to the meetings of the District Council. Meeting of the old Sanitary Authority a resolution was passed excluding them.—It was the opinion of the members that the meetings should be open to the Press.—Mr. Bale proposed Mr. Gooding seconded that reporters be admitted to attend the meetings on the condition that the Council wish any matter to be extracted from the newspapers it should be acceded to.

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.**  
The medical officer of health (Dr. Slade-King) read his annual report. It stated that during the year there had been 132 births in the parish, showing a birth-rate of 26·463 per 1,000, as compared with 27·8 in 1893; 20 in 1892; 28 in 1891; and 11 in 1890. During the year 66 deaths were recorded—a death-rate of 13·2 per 1,000, as compared with 16 in 1893; 17·2 in 1892; 16·6 in 1891; and 16 in 1890. The number of deaths from disease was three, showing a zymotic rate of ·6 per 1,000. In referring to the report the Clerk said:—The various public works of the water supply have been maintained in working order. In Dulverton town the reservoir has been cleaned, and the mains and flushed. Nine samples of drinking water have been analysed—seven were good, two polluted and dealt with accordingly. The drainage and drainage were both reported to be satisfactory. The total number of attacks notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act was seven, or 1·4 per 1,000 of the population. There were 26, or 5·2 per 1,000. The Act is found to work smoothly, and is very useful. The cowsheds, bake-houses, milk-shops, slaughter-houses had all been registered, inspected, and regulated. In connection with the provisions of the Working Classes Act, up to March, 1894, representations had been made, 47 structural alterations, and eleven formal notices committed. In consequence of a representation made since the above date two cottages in Dulverton have been closed as unfit for human habitation. The public elementary schools in the parish were all in good structural condition, well ventilated, and supplied with drinking water. In the annual remarks the medical officer said:—The parish as regards death-rate, deaths from infectious disease, and infant mortality, has shown the most satisfactory record for the last ten years. The structural condition of the cottages improves, and the co-operation is very difficult to deal with. The co-operation of the working-classes in sanitary reform is much more hearty than it was some years since, more particularly amongst the poorer population. He recommended a water supply for Dulverton town, and that a stream should be made into a culvert at some drainage which enters the river should be diverted.

The Clerk called attention to that part of the report relative to a larger water supply for Dulverton. If Dr. Slade-King could show that it was needed it could be discussed. At the same time he thought it was a matter for the Parish Council.

Dr. Slade-King said he could strike it out of the report if it was wished. When it was read by the Sanitary Council and Local Government Board the bodies would want to know why it was not done.

Subsequently it was proposed by Mr. Chorley, seconded by Mr. Evans, that the report be read and adopted, the consideration of it to be deferred.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS.**  
In accordance with notice given, Mr. Chorley moved that the resolution passed fixing the meetings of the District Council to be held fortnightly be rescinded, and that they be held monthly like the Highway Board. This was seconded and carried.

**A REQUEST FROM MOREBATH.**  
A letter was read from the clerk to the Morebath Sanitary Council (Mr. F. R. Henson), asking that the next report of the sanitary inspector might be forwarded to the Council.—The Clerk said they were not bound to send the report. The Parish Council could if they wished make representations to the District Council.—Mr. Gooding said the question arose out of some matter that was brought before the District Council relative to Morebath. He, as correctly as possible, explained the Parish Council what took place, but one member was not satisfied, and wished to see the report.—The clerk was requested to reply that it was not the duty of the District Council to send such reports to the Parish Council, but that they would be ready to take into consideration any representations made to them.

Esplanade at Lynmouth was commenced in 1886. They were not in a position then to complete the work. Since 1886 the rateable value of Lynnton had increased quite 30 per cent. The general district rates were very much lower now than formerly, being only 3s. in the £ per annum. If opposition was raised, he thought it would arise chiefly from those who had independent means to live on. Most of the persons who lived in the place depended on visitors for their trade and living, and therefore were desirous that the Esplanade should be extended for their convenience. Lynnton and Lynmouth were divided ecclesiastically, but formed one parish for rateable purposes. It was the policy of the Council to get rid of any feeling of opposition between the two parts of the parish. If the work had to be done out of rates, it would mean a very high rate, but if paid out of loan the burden would not press so heavily.

Capt. Hume agreed with some of Mr. Heywood's remarks, but thought there were more important works needed than the extension of the Esplanade. In the first place, the improvement of the water supply was more desirable, and then the Board was under the necessity of erecting a building in the Market-place.

Mr. Roberts said the cost of the building would only be £500.

Mr. Peake hoped the inspector would look at the place, and he would find that it led nowhere. The want of the Esplanade was only an opinion of the old Board; the present Council had not had time to consider the matter. He thought the scheme should remain in abeyance until more important work had been done.

Mr. R. H. Taylor considered the question of water supply and drainage of far more importance than the Esplanade.

Mr. J. Crook thought the extension of the Esplanade would be a useless waste of money, especially as money would be required for other important works.

Mr. W. Bevan was of opinion that the extension of the Esplanade would prove the best thing done in Lynmouth.

Mr. Jones said ratepayers in Lynnton and Lynmouth were anxious that if money was borrowed for this object it should be so used, and not for other cases, applied to something else. In 1886, £1,500 was granted for roads and footpaths, some of that, he believed, had been used for other purposes.

The Inspector: You have a Local Government auditor who examines the accounts. That is time to present your grievance.

Mr. Hodges said that Sir George Newnes had granted the powers to the Local Board for the Esplanade which he had acquired by the Pier and Harbour Act of 1891.

Mr. Heywood said Sir George Newnes had abandoned his scheme and had given any money he possessed for carrying out any portion of the work to the late Local Board.

Mr. Pedder believed that if the parish were polled there would be a very large majority in favour of the scheme. Since the formation of the Local Board there had been a considerable increase in the value. If that extension was carried out, he believed that the future rise in the rateable value would be still more progressive. They hoped that a pier would be constructed for the Esplanade.

#### WORKS AT LYNMOUTH.

The Inspector next proceeded to examine plans for widening Lynmouth street, bridge, and works of sewerage.

There being practically no objections raised to this application, the Inspector said that the inquiry was finished, and a report would be made in due course.

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